THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to double the production of foodgrains in the country by the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(b) to (d) Question do not arise.

Assistance to Fishermen

1277. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fishermen and the population with fish as a main food;

(b) the number of fishermen who have been provided with the modest fishing equipments;

(c) the number of training programmes organised to train fishermen; and

(d) the number of beneficiaries from such programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The population of fishermen is 14.45 million and fish eaters' population constitutes around 56% of the total population in the country.

(b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Fisheries Training and Extension is in operation in all the States/UTs with the objective to upgrade the skills of fish farmers/fishers, has no provision to provide fishing equipments to the Fishers. However, central assistance of Rs. 510.00 lakh has been extended to various States/UTs for providing 4324 Outboard Motors to the fishermen using traditional fishing craft under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations" during the period 2002-03 to 2004-05.

(c) and (d) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Fisheries Training and Extension, total 183 training programmes were sanctioned and 10415 fishers have been trained during the last three years (2002-03 to 2004-05).